

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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BUILDING THEIR OWN THEATRE

Students of London drama school in a new role

This summer, if all goes well and her professional engagements permit, Vivien Leigh will be keeping a promise to open a new theatre at Ravenscourt Park, London. The first performance on the opening day will be a revue bringing in all the pupils of the Corona School of Stage and Drama. And that is as it should be, for this is their theatre. It was their idea and they helped to plan it, raise money for it, and build it.

It all began in 1954, when some of the pupils returned from the Shakespeare season at Stratford-on-Avon, full of their first experience of playing in a modern professional theatre.

"If only we had a theatre with a decent-sized stage here!" said one boy. "It would do our work much more good than having to rehearse in classrooms and give our shows at the town hall."

"Yes," agreed another. "And then we could do all the scenery, stage work, and everything."

They took the idea to Miss Knight, the principal, and pointed out that there was plenty of room to build a theatre in the school grounds.

Miss Knight was impressed by their enthusiasm, but very doubtful. "Of course I should like to have a theatre," she agreed. "But where's the money coming from? The most I could manage is £1000."

"We could raise the money," chorused the students. "Give concerts, hold raffles, and all that sort of thing."

"All that sort of thing" would have to account for some thousands of pounds, I'm afraid," said Miss Knight gently.

However, she and her colleague, Mrs. Malone, were persuaded to discuss possible plans, and eventu-

ally a simple contemporary design emerged. An architect was consulted and translated the ideas into practical plans.

Then the blow fell. The cost would be at least £10,000!

By this time some senior students had formed themselves into a self-appointed theatre com-



A little duelling practice at the Corona School



Four "labourers" and an interested spectator

mittee. It was so much a team effort that to single out names would be wrong.

Enough to say that if you had been at one of the meetings, you would probably have recognised members of the popular television families, such as the Appleyards. And from television serials you would have seen characters like Jim Hawkins and David Copperfield, now in ribbon-edged blazers.

One boy's father was a builder. "He can get materials for us, and show us how to lay the bricks," announced the boy. Not to be outdone, an electrician's son pledged his father's services for wiring the theatre.

A meeting of parents was called by the boys. By the time everything had been thrashed out, and promises of free services and materials at cost price taken into consideration, it was found that if

the children dug the foundations and built the lower walls, the cost could be cut to about £4000.

Building plans were passed by the Council, and the students set to work raising funds by concerts, social evenings, raffles, as well as helping with contributions from their own pocket money in making a "mile of pennies."

Early in 1957 enough money, with Miss Knight's contribution, had been raised to pay for the walls and roof. The interior work, it was decided, would be done in stages as money became available.

With a maximum of a two-hour shift fixed by the school authorities to prevent the students from over-tiring themselves in their enthusiasm, the boys arranged a roster for work in the light evenings of spring and summer.

TAKING SHAPE

The Boy Scouts Association loaned the scaffolding; a cement mixer was hired, and the theatre began to take shape. It is 19 feet high, has a stage area of 24 feet by 33 feet, and an auditorium 22 feet by 33 feet.

News of the children's efforts spread. Hearing of the theatre when children from the school appeared in one of her films, Joan Crawford promptly sent a donation. The Oliviers became interested when more Corona pupils worked with them in Titus Andronicus.

Meanwhile, the second-hand market was carefully watched. The sale of a London theatre brought the chance of stage lighting equipment at a fraction of its new cost.

The one major item remaining is the stage; and as the children have already raised £2000 in just over three years, there is little doubt that the money for this will not be long delayed.

In every sense this can be called a children's theatre.

Festival of Wales

On Saturday the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are to visit Cardiff to open the great Festival of Wales.

As the trumpets sound and the bells peal, the whole Principality will joyfully begin a programme of celebrations lasting until October 30 and including the British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

For weeks past every town and village in Wales has been busy with its plans and its preparations. Music, in this home of music, will naturally play a great part; but, besides concerts and band contests and choir festivals, there are to be sports meetings, sheep-dog trials, motor racing, art exhibitions, and horticultural shows.

GOLDEN BOOK OF WELCOME

The opening ceremonies at Cardiff will include a great procession, with young people representing every county and county borough of Wales and the Welsh community in London. Welsh regiments will be represented, and so will the R.A.F. and R.N.V.R.

The Queen and Prince Philip are to make a tour and Princess Margaret has already written the first signature in the Golden Book of Welcome in which the names of all Welsh visitors from overseas are to be recorded.

Royal weather is all that is needed to make this a truly royal summer for Wales.

Royal May Day

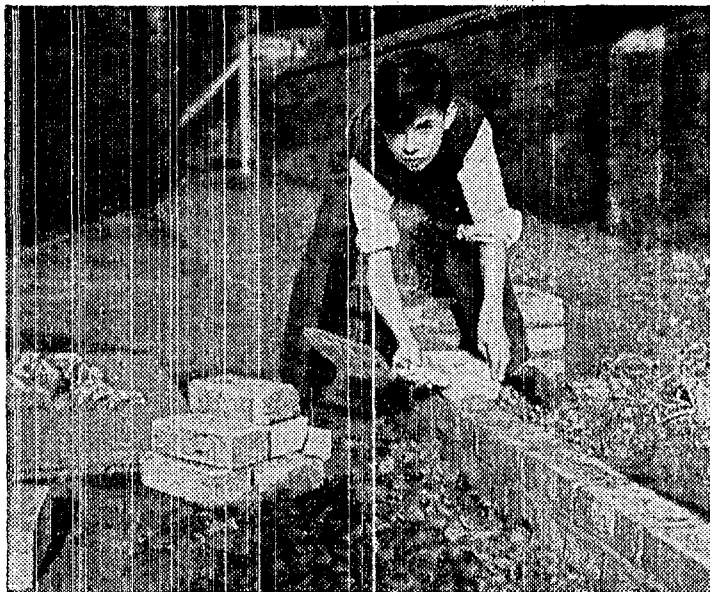
The Cheshire town of Knutsford will be thronged with visitors on Saturday for the Royal May Day Festival.

King Edward VII allowed the Knutsford Festival to be called "Royal" because it pleased him so much when, as Prince of Wales, he saw it in 1887. With its Morris dancing and other ancient revels, it still pleases all who delight in the pageantry of Merrie England.

At two o'clock the May Queen will be escorted in colourful procession from the Town Hall to Knutsford Heath for her coronation, and with her will be Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, Little John, and scores of other legendary characters as well as the "Royal" May Day Footguards.

Earlier in the day the people will make patterns in coloured sand on the pavements. This custom, known as "sanding," may date from the reign of King Canute, from whom the town is said to get its name.

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One of the pupils tries his hand at bricklaying

TAX ALTERATIONS IN THE NEW BUDGET

By the CN Parliamentary Correspondent

Our M.P.s are once again entering the period of the Finance Bill debates. By August the Bill will have carried the Budget proposals into law and will have become the latest of a long series of Finance Acts.

These Finance Acts are the House of Commons guide to our financial strength and history. It is always open to our M.P.s to amend earlier Acts, and that is in fact what usually happens when the Chancellor of the Exchequer brings in his annual Budget.

THE Budget introduced by Mr. Heathcoat Amory makes it necessary to amend a number of provisions of modern Finance Acts relating to purchase, profits and income taxes; estate, stamp, and wine duties.

Purchase tax is a percentage tax on goods and is generally higher on luxuries (such as fur coats) than on articles of household use. The purchase tax brings in nearly £500,000,000 a year to the Revenue, or nearly one-tenth of the whole Budget income. Mr. Amory has now made cuts in the various rates at which this tax is levied in the hope of cheapening goods and helping to lower the cost of living.

ONE RATE NOW

Profits tax falls on the profits of companies. For many years there have been two rates of profits tax. One has been imposed on profits shared out among shareholders, the other, a lower one, has been levied on profits kept back to buy new machinery and in other ways to build up a business. Now there is to be one rate of ten per cent.

Income tax explains itself. It is a tax on incomes, but many of us do not realise that it is also levied on firms and enterprises which have to pay profits tax as well.

Estate duty is a tax levied on the estates, or property, of people when they die. Stamp duty is the share the State takes of legal fees charged when people buy property. Wine, like beer and petrol, is one of many fluids which bear tax.

This gives a rough idea of the bewildering variety of taxes and duties which make up the modern Budget and the complicated clauses of the annual Finance Bill.

BIG EXPENSES BILL

Nowadays the Chancellor has to collect nearly £5,000,000,000 from taxpayers of various kinds to pay the expenses of government. This does not much matter provided the country is thriving and we all have plenty of work and are satisfied that we are fairly paid for it.

But the shadow behind this year's Finance Bill is the fear that trade will wane and jobs will not be so easy to get or to keep. The main reason is the growth of unemployment in the United States to more than five million.

The Americans are the greatest producers in the world, and to keep up their production they buy a mass of raw materials from the sterling area, of which Britain is

the head. Now the Americans are finding it harder to sell goods to their own vast population, so many employees, especially in automobile engineering, are working short time or have no work at all.

For a time it may therefore be harder for foreigners—including Britain—to sell goods in the United States. Not only that, but the Americans will need to buy fewer raw materials, since the demands for goods made from them is diminishing. That lower demand will reduce the income of the sterling area and thus make Britain's position more difficult.

HOPEFUL OUTLOOK

This is painting a rather grim picture. Happily the outlook may be changed by using new techniques in industry and the development of overseas markets, for there are still millions of people in what are called the under-developed countries who need vast quantities of goods to improve their living standards.

There is a school of thought which believes the American "recession"—as it is called—will be smoothed out by next autumn and that production and employment will start climbing upwards once more.

But Mr. Amory had to take existing facts into account. That is why there are no startling changes in the Finance Bill. But our M.P.s can be relied upon to criticise it very sharply during the next two or three months.



Like father . . .

CN reader Jennifer Joseph, of Hampstead, London, is a musician of great promise and although only eight has already played her cello at three concerts. Jennifer has inherited her talent; her father, Vivian Joseph, a pupil of the great Pablo Casals, is one of Britain's leading cellists.

Dough in the kitty

Circus talk was used recently by Colonel James Carreras in describing the efforts of the Variety Clubs' International to raise money for charity.

"Over here," he said, "the barkers, main guys, ducat peddlers, and billers have all worked hard to ensure that the dough guy will have at least £15,000 in the kitty to give to British youth charities."

A "barker" is a club member, a "main guy" is a committee chairman, a "ducat peddler" is a ticket seller, a "biller" is a publicity man, the "dough guy" is the treasurer, and the kitty, of course, is the bank.

HONOURED NAME

The Army's 7th Armoured Division—famed as the Desert Rats—has been disbanded and reformed as the 5th Division. The 11th Hussars were responsible for the name, for at the outbreak of war they carried out long desert patrols in Egypt, living almost like the jerboas, or desert rats.

The division took part in the whole of the North African campaign, later moving on to Europe and eventually ending in Berlin.

News from Everywhere

The people of Chesterfield are raising £1000 to preserve the famous crooked spire of their parish church.

A French inventor has produced a watch which records its wearer's temperature and pulse rate—as well as the time.

LOW JUMP

An Argentine amateur parachute jumper claims the lowest jump in the world. He baled out at only 65 feet over the River Plate—and landed with his parachute open.

Ian Hamilton, son of the village baker at Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset, has been acclaimed Britain's champion baker. He is only 17.

HOLIDAYS AT SEA FOR GIRLS

The twin-screw ketch English Rose, under Commander C. L. A. Woollard, R.N., is making weekly and fortnightly cruises as holiday sea training for girls until September. Particulars from Mrs. Woollard, 2 Dorset Lane Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

A 56-year-old Newcastle tramcar is the latest addition to Lord Montague's Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire. It will be on view in the courtyard of a new section of the museum to be built this summer.

HOMEWORK ON THE AIR

A Melbourne radio station has started a programme in which experts answer children's homework queries.

About 1000 pictures are on show in the eleventh open-air art exhibition in London's Victoria Embankment Gardens. The exhibition closes on May 10.

A U.S. Navy plane has reached a height of 76,828 feet. The previous record, 72,308 feet, was held by a British Canberra bomber.

Australia's first atomic research station has been opened at Lucas Heights, 20 miles from Sydney. Built at a cost of over £5,000,000, it is housed for safety in a cylindrical building 70 feet high and 70 feet in diameter.

The Avon and Dorset River Board is offering 5s. a beak for every cormorant caught. The birds have been stealing salmon.

A bag of potato crisps bought at Fareham, Hants., contained a pound note inside instead of the usual packet of salt.

Chopin monument



Workmen are here seen adding the head to a monument to Poland's greatest composer, Chopin, which is due to be unveiled in Warsaw on Thursday.

THEY SAY . . .

THERE are two schools of thought on space travel. There are the addicts of science fiction, and those who say that space travel is a lot of nonsense. I suspect the truth lies somewhere in between.

Prince Philip

THERE is still plenty of work to be done in Antarctica.

Dr. Vivian Fuchs

THE BBC . . . is always trying to be fair and truthful but it occasionally puts its foot in it.

Introduction to booklet published by the B.C.C. for the Brussels Exhibition

Out and About

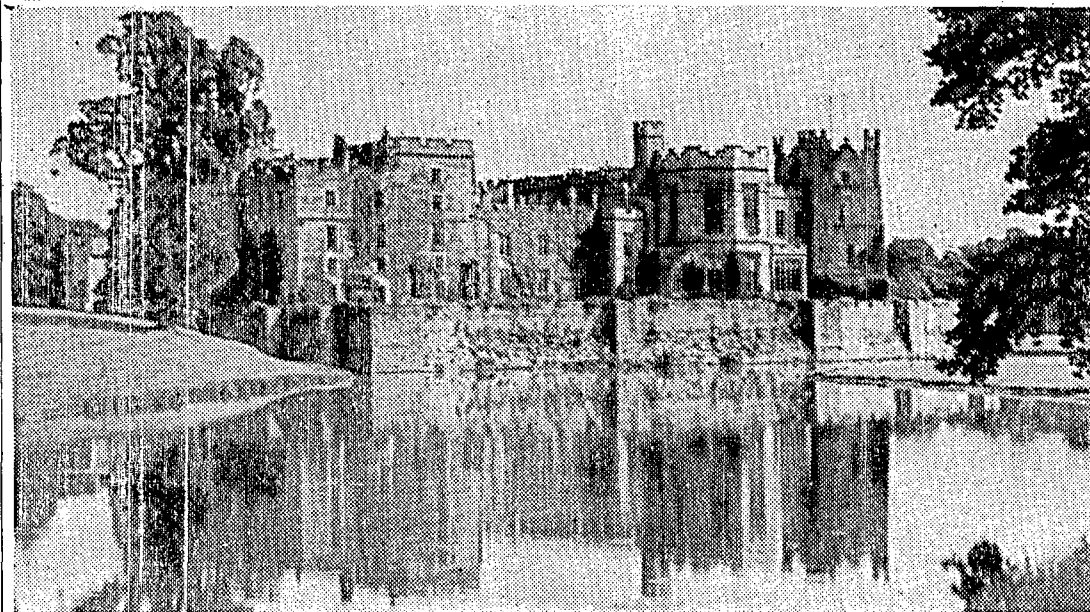
KEEPING quiet and moving slowly the other evening, I heard scuffings in the wood. It could have been rats, of course, or badgers or foxes. The latter did not seem likely; but one never knows, for both are quiet, especially when there is a family to rear. Sometimes they have already made their new home for many weeks before being noticed.

I crept into the wood. The evening light was enough to help in going carefully, and soon I reached a large tree trunk, sure now that the animal movements were quite near.

Edging round, I saw what were apparently young puppies gambolling and wrestling; it was an entrancing picture.

They were fox cubs, six of them. The vixen had allowed them out of the "earth," where they were born last month, and from now until the end of summer the vixen and the dog fox will encourage them to practise hunting ready for the time when they will be out in the world on their own.

C.D.D.



OUR HOMELAND

Magnificent Raby Castle near Staundrop in County Durham

SCHOOLBOY WRITES OPERA

Fifteen-year-old David Cullen of Highgate School, London, is to have his own opera produced at the Scala Theatre on May 7.

He entered the Children's Opera Group Competition for Young Composers and his composition was sent for judging to Benjamin Britten. David won a special prize and Mr. Britten said of his work: "Here is a real boy composer. There is real energy, quite a lot of imagination and a sense of the stage and a sense of humour."

In the picture we see David trying over the score with one of the cast, 12-year-old Michael Collett. But he did not merely write it for the piano, he also orchestrated it for strings, woodwind, and percussion.

No wonder David, who was formerly a chorister at All Saints, Margaret Street, won a music scholarship to his new school. His experiences in the choir also sug-



gested the theme of his opera. It is called *The Chorister and the Candlesticks* and tells how a thieves' plot was foiled by a choir-boy. The Vicar and churchwardens of All Saints are sponsoring the production.

Three Scouts at the top

In one weekend three Dunfermline Rover Scouts have climbed Scotland's highest mountain, England's two highest mountains, and the highest in Wales.

On the Saturday the three Rover Scouts scaled Ben Nevis (4406 feet) in little over two-and-three-quarter hours. Then they drove to Cumberland and climbed Scafell Pike (3210 feet) and the neighbouring Scafell (3160 feet). The next day they drove to Snowdon (3560 feet), reaching the summit in two-and-a-quarter hours.

NEW USE FOR OLD HALL

The council of the little North Riding town of Bedale has bought Bedale Hall, a fine Georgian mansion, for use as a local museum.

An appeal is being made for local antiquities of all kinds—documents, pictures, maps, costumes, tools of old trades and so on. There are also plans to restore the ballroom to its original splendour appearance.

Bells of friendship

American airmen stationed at Lakenheath, Suffolk, have given two new bells to the church in the neighbouring village of Eriswell.

One bears the inscription: "Americans gave me. John Taylor made me." The other bell is inscribed: "May God protect the men that fly. May Anglo-American friendship never die."

CHAMPION RIDER

The toughest of all equestrian events for horse and rider alike is the three-day trial. It is made up of dressage, in which the horse is put through a series of intricate movements; cross-country, a test of speed, skill and endurance; and show-jumping, in which the slightest fault earns penalty marks.

Three-day trials were long regarded as a sport for men, but the ladies have proved they can hold their own, and last October, 21-year-old Sheila Willcox stood on the rostrum at Copenhagen as the champion rider of all Europe, the first woman to win this title.

Sheila entered her first competition when she was only ten. Now she has written the story of

her progress in a book called *Three Days Running* (Collins, 15s.).

Sheila was 18 when she bought *High and Mighty*, a horse which caused many experts to raise their eyebrows. "Quite hopeless for three-day trials," they said. But Sheila went on riding, training, and grooming the "hopeless" one—Chips to her—and to such good effect that within 18 months they were in the British team competing in an international event in Italy.

Sheila was the only girl in the competition, but at the end she was individual champion.

A lively story which will appeal to all horse-lovers, *Three Days Running* is also the story of a great partnership.



Model of an Empress

This eight-foot model of the Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of Britain* was made by a doctor assisted by his patients. The model has been given to the National Sea Training School's ship *Vindictrix*, at Sharpness Dock, Gloucestershire.

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ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

THOSE FRENCH MENUS! This seat can save lives

SECOND BIRTHDAY FOR ZOO TIME

Angy faces a poser

SUPPOSE you found yourself in a luxurious restaurant, confronted with a long menu in French, and didn't know what to order? That's the poser that faces "Angy" (Angela) Hepworth, the heroine of C. E. Webber's play, *Restaurant Splendide*, in BBC Children's TV next Tuesday. I am told it's a story within a story



Diane Todd

—how "Angy," wishing to write a story about a reception at an expensive restaurant, goes to one with a girl friend to see what the food is like and how it is served. But the manager is suspicious of

the two little girls and wants to turn them out, until help comes from an unexpected quarter.

C. E. Webber, by the way, has also written a new musical play for BBC Children's TV called *Castle Dangerous*, which will be seen on May 25. The music is composed by John Hunter Blair. Playing the leading role will be 20-year-old singer Diane Todd, who is rapidly making a name for herself. She has already been singer for the week in BBC Television's *Tonight*, and was Jack Payne's guest in *Off the Record*. On Friday we can see Diane making her first appearance in Cyril Stapleton's *Show Band Parade*.

When cricket and soccer overlap

WITH the football season in its last stages, cricket now marches in, and this week the two overlap.

This Wednesday sees the opening match of the New Zealand cricket tour, against Worcestershire. BBC Television will be covering the match on all three days.

Meanwhile soccer keeps its end up on TV. On Friday night the BBC cameras will cover the second half of the England v. Young England game at Stamford Bridge. England will be represented by the potential World Cup XI and Young England by players under 23.

The Cup Final between Bolton Wanderers and Manchester United on Saturday is being taken by many countries on the Eurovision network. The BBC Television transmission from Wembley will last 2½ hours, and the match will also be broadcast on the Light Programme.

How many can you answer?

HAVE you tried yet for a book token prize in the Quickfire Quiz in ITV's *Let's Get Together*, on alternate Fridays? Redvers Kyle, who runs the feature, reports that many hundreds of boys and girls are now taking part.

Twenty-five questions are fired off, about 10 of them based on a short film, others on still pictures and captions. Since the Quiz started in February, only one viewer has got all 25 answers right. The average number of correct replies is 17.

"I would rather that young people tried to get a dozen right," said Mr. Kyle. "If you go for the lot, there's a chance of getting out of your depth!" The Quiz, for which you need pencil and paper, is meant for children between the ages of 8 and 12. The next one is on May 9.

Redvers Kyle, who comes from South Africa, began his radio career in Johannesburg, mainly in children's programmes. When he

A BROADCAST which might help any one of us to save a life is *Seat of Survival* in the BBC Home Service at 7.30 p.m. on Friday. It tells of the Martin-Baker ejector seat which can toss an airman to safety from the cockpit of a crashing plane flying at supersonic speed. (As mentioned in the CN last week, Mr. James Martin, British designer of the ejector seat, received the premier award of the U.S. Flight-Safety Foundation.)

Author Islwyn Williams stresses that the ejector seat is not on the secret list, for a very good reason. As many people as possible ought to know how it works, for anywhere in Britain it could happen that one might have to help a crashed flier still trapped in his machine with the ejector seat unused. The explosive cartridge, if it has not already rocketed the occupant to safety, could be dangerous if the rescuer did not know how to handle it.

The broadcast will tell how this wonderful invention is now standard equipment in most of the world's air forces.

Strange voices and strange people

"HEBRIDEAN shipwreck, scientific hush-hush, and amateur detection"—that's how the BBC described to me Angus MacVicar's new four-part serial, *The Satellite Seven*, which begins in Children's Hour this Wednesday evening. The story takes us two years forward, to the summer of 1960, when Tony Thomson (Arthur Bolland), a world-famous singing star, gets shipwrecked off a Hebridean island with his brother Jake (Bryden Murdoch). In the first episode, "Whispering Voices," they run up against strange buildings and even stranger people.

came to England in 1952 he took up teaching for a time. He started in TV as some of the "voices" in the BBC *Toytown* series. He introduced the first-ever Schools TV programme in this country for Associated-Rediffusion, and is now included among their regular announcers.



Redvers Kyle



Jimmy Hanley and Desmond Morris with some of the stars of Zoo Time

THE second birthday programme (or 100th Edition) of Granada Television's *Zoo Time*, arranged for last Thursday, was considered so important that Desmond Morris, Jimmy Hanley, Congo, and company decided to hold the special dress rehearsal seen in the picture.

Since *Zoo Time* started in 1956, Desmond Morris has introduced so many creatures that you might wonder whether there were many more species left! Here are the numbers seen in TV: 174 species of animals, 90 varieties of birds, 36 kinds of reptile, 27 fish, 37 invertebrates, and 10 amphibians.

We have all heard the expression that there are as many fish in the sea as ever came out of it. That is how Dr. Morris views *Zoo Time*. He believes there are still innumerable types of creatures to be found in the world if you only look for them—enough to keep the programme going for years to come.

Zoo Time has its own permanent studio at the London Zoo, remodelled from the old sanatorium. It includes special cages for nervous animals, so that for a day or two before the broadcast they can get used to the TV cameras, microphones, and other unusual sights and sounds.

Detectives with a spade

BRIAN HOPE-TAYLOR, who begins a fortnightly archaeological series in BBC Children's TV on Friday—it is called *Ages Ago*—says that he wants boys and girls to look on the subject as "real live detective work."

By means of film visits to ancient sites, he hopes to take us right back to the age of the mammoth, and then to trace what went on in the earliest days of man's existence

and discover why we know as much as we do.

Buried Treasure, the previous archaeological series, dealt more with objects that have been found. *Ages Ago*, produced by Roy Duffell, will be concerned with more exciting outdoor work. Among guests in the studio will be one of the few remaining "flint nappers," people who chip stones in the manner of prehistoric man.

Drama of the Tay Bridge disaster

IF you have ever gone on a train journey across the Tay Bridge in Scotland, you must have noticed a long line of bastions, only just above the water line to the east of the bridge. These remain a permanent monument to one of the most spectacular railway disasters in history—the collapse of the first Tay Bridge on a stormy December night in 1879.

How did it happen, and why? Who was responsible? The story of the enquiry in the Sheriff's Court, Dundee, is to be told, as if it were happening today, this Wednesday evening, in BBC Television's *You Are There*.

Wynford Vaughan Thomas heads the reporting team, with Frank Owen as News Editor.

Changes in What's My Line?

JOSEPHINE DOUGLAS, whom we have got to know so well in *Six-Five Special*, leaves this popular BBC television programme on May 10. But we shall still see her on the screen. She joins the panel of *What's My Line?* on June 8, when Barbara Kelly goes on holiday.

This is only one of many changes in TV's oldest panel game. Gilbert Harding becomes chairman on May 18 when Eamonn Andrews goes off on an American tour. Frank Muir and Denis Norden, famous scriptwriters of *Take It From Here*, join the panel on May 11. That week Gilbert Harding will be taking a holiday.

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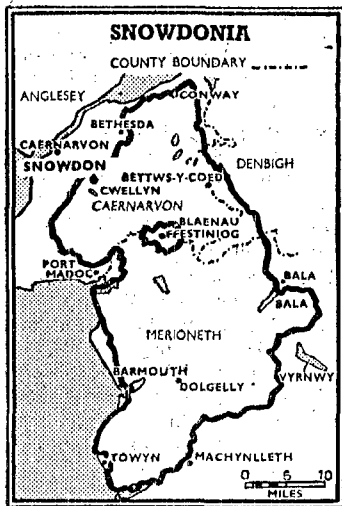
AGE.....

THE NATIONAL PARKS OF BRITAIN

3. Snowdonia

Established in February 1951 as Britain's third National Park, Snowdonia covers 837 square miles of North Wales, taking in most of Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire as well as a small part of Denbighshire. Extending from the Dovey estuary to Conway Bay in the north, it contains not only grand mountain ranges but also fine woodland scenery and coastal landscapes. It is a region, too, which is rich in plant and animal life, with a particularly interesting variety of birds.

Snowdonia, of course, takes its name from Snowdon in Welsh, Eryri—place of the eagles—Britain's highest mountain south of the Scottish border. From the summit of Snowdon, its loftiest peak being 3560 feet high, the Isle of Man and the mountains of Ireland and the Lake District can be



seen on a clear day. And all around Snowdon are other impressive peaks which together make up one of the wildest and most rugged regions of mountain country in Britain.

To the south of the Snowdon group is a high, rolling landscape of hills and valleys extending to the commanding summits of Cader Idris and the Arans (Mawddwy, 2970 feet, and Be'lynn, 2900 feet), near Dolgelly. Among these hills are occasional lakes, such as Trawsfynydd, which is at present the subject of a great deal of controversy owing to a proposal to build a big nuclear power station.

An outstanding feature of Snowdonia is the fine length of coastline along Cardigan Bay between Portmadoc and Aberdovey. Another

other is Harlech, famous in song and history, where Edward the First's fortress, high on its rocky spur, has dominated the scene for over 600 years.

Farther inland, the main tourist centres in the Snowdonia National Park include Bettws-y-Coed, Capel Curig, Beddgelert, and Dolgelly, from any of which a magnificent selection of mountain peaks is within reasonable walking distance. No other part of Britain provides finer sport for climbers, and fortunately there is little restriction on public access to high country.

LOCAL PRIDE

In a landscape of such strong character it is not surprising that the people should have vigorous feelings of local pride and independence. They have a great regard for individual talents, and their love of fine singing, poetry, and drama is known far and wide beyond their own country.

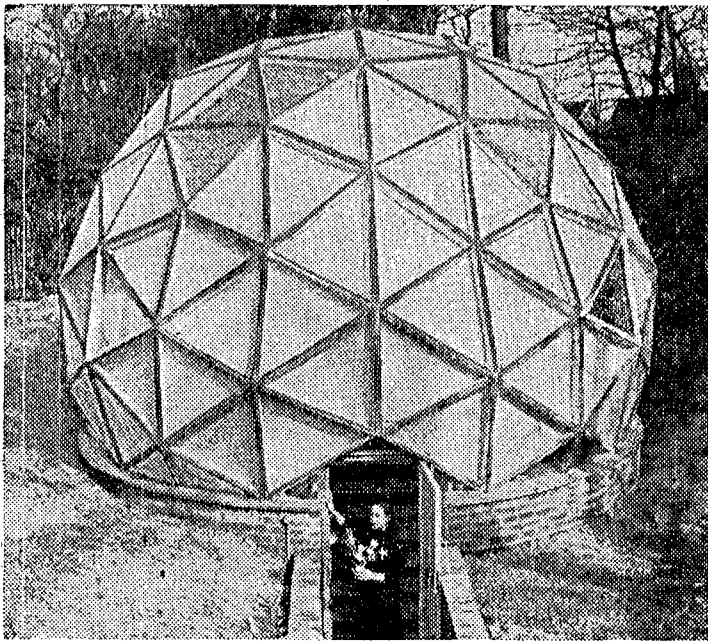
Looking at the map of Snowdonia you will see an odd "island" which has been left out of the National Park. It is the area called Blaenau Ffestiniog, and if you know the district you will quickly guess why this is so, for it is scarred by huge slate quarries and waste tips.

TREES TO HIDE QUARRIES

The interests of the park are looked after by the Snowdonia Joint Advisory Committee, which is tackling many local problems in caring for the landscape, including the planting of trees to hide old quarry tips and encouraging the setting up of small inconspicuous holiday caravan sites.

The Committee is preparing a guide book and filmstrip about the park, and is also busily searching for a suitable site for a folk museum and information centre for visitors.

Next week: Dartmoor



Glass studio for an architect

Mr. Hugh Pope, an architect working on the new Coventry Cathedral, has built himself this striking studio in the grounds of his home at Kingston Hill, Surrey. Made of glass on a light wooden frame, it is lined with panels which can be removed according to the weather, and the particular lighting Mr. Pope might need while working. In the picture we see Mrs. Pope at the entrance to this novel studio.

AUSTRALIAN CENTURY

Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, famed throughout Australia, has just celebrated its centenary. Founded in 1858 by Melbourne's first Bishop, the Right Rev. Charles Perry, Melbourne Grammar originally had 77 pupils; today it has 1300 and a distinguished Roll of Fame.

Old Melburnians include Peter Thonemann, a scientist who played a big part in the development of Zeta, the "man-made sun"; Alfred Deakin and Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, two Prime Ministers of Australia; the Right Rev. Allen Winter, Bishop of St. Arnaud; the Right Rev. John McKie, Bishop of Geelong, and his brother Sir William McKie, organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey; Mr. R. G. Casey, Australia's Minister for External Affairs; and Sir Keith Hancock, famous historian and expert on Commonwealth affairs.

A new Who's Who of the school, now being prepared, will have 14,000 names. It will show that Old Melburnians have built up a record surpassed by few other schools in the British Commonwealth.

The biggest bang

The blowing up of the tops of two underwater peaks in the Seymour Narrows, British Columbia, (reported in last week's CN) has been described by some newspapers as mankind's biggest non-atomic explosion. But a much bigger explosion occurred when the German fortifications on the North Sea island of Heligoland were destroyed on April 18, 1947. Over 6700 tons of explosives were then used, compared with about 1400 tons in British Columbia. This big bang was registered by more than 100 seismographs (instruments for recording earthquakes) in different parts of Europe.

The enormous explosive charges on Heligoland were detonated by remote control from a destroyer and a cable ship, and the observers on board saw columns of smoke and dust rising to a height of 10,000 feet.

Away with the old hat

An unusual contest is to take place at Cleethorpes during Carnival Week in August between two teams chosen from local Boy Scout troops and Boys' Brigade companies. The Mayor, Alderman Wilfred Solomons, will throw down his three-cornered hat, and the team that carries it across the other's line will be the winner.

It will be the Mayor's old hat! The Council are buying him a new one to wear when the Queen visits the resort in June.

DOG-IN-BOOTS

A real dog-in-boots is the unusual sight that makes people stop and stare in Southampton streets.

The wearer is a young Corgi. Her owner, Southampton shop assistant Miss Mary Smith, noticed that Sue (short for Susanna of Thanet) found the pavements too hard for her soft pads and used to finish her walks limping.

A Stockbridge shoemaker spent a day making a pair of dog's boots of soft calf leather, with rubber linings, and now Sue trots happily along Southampton's pavements.

WAIT, JACK. LET'S HELP THIS OLD GENTLEMAN. PHEW!

"RACE YOU HOME BOB"

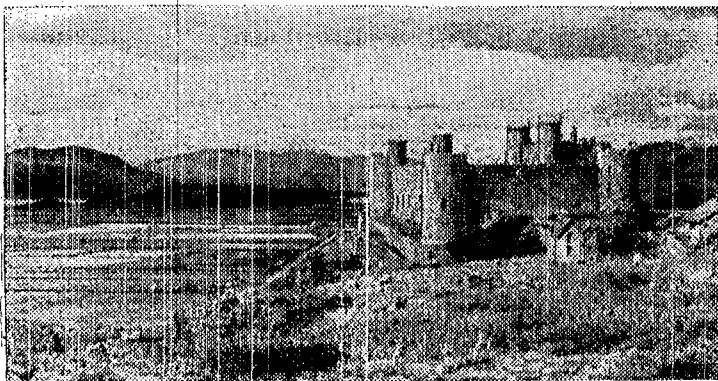
"TIE ONE OF YOUR SKATES UNDER THAT END, BOB. I'LL SEE TO THIS END."

"THANK YOU, BOYS!"

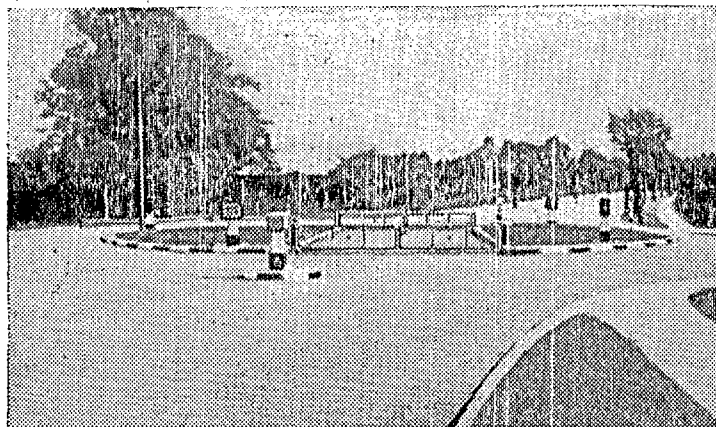
"NEXT STOP THE RAILWAY STATION!"

NOW HAVE SOME
CADBURYS
— you deserve it!

Cadbury's DAIRY MILK CHOCOLATE



Historic Harlech Castle in Merionethshire



Roundabout riddle

This unusual roundabout in Wirral, Cheshire, has a road through its middle with gates at either end. Why should this be?

See picture on page 11 for the reason

Which language for India?

In the old days of British rule English was the official language of India, in government circles and the law courts, in colleges and universities, and in all national newspapers. It used to be said that if people from various parts of India wanted to join together to denounce Britain the only common language in which they could do it was English.

When India became a self-governing republic, it was only natural that one of the Indian tongues should take the place of

English. The question was "which?". For India has more than a dozen major languages and a few score of minor ones and so it is not an easy problem to solve.

There is another difficulty. One language is written from left to right; another from right to left. One uses a flowing script, all graceful curves; another uses a script that is all small circles and straight lines, like a music score.

FOUR MAIN GROUPS

Indian languages fall into about four main groups.

First, there is a group of three languages, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, spoken by something like 150 million people, most of whom live in the north and north-west part of India.

The next group is made up of languages like Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, and Gujarati, spoken by fully 80 million people living in a great belt across India from Burma to Bombay.

The third group is spoken by some 90 million people living entirely in the south. These South Indian languages, Tamil, Telugu, Kanarese, and Malayalam, have little in common with those of north and central India.

The fourth group is made up of languages spoken by relatively small numbers of people, and are not ever likely to be of national importance.

YEARS OF ARGUMENT

In 1950, after two or three years of argument, it was laid down in the Indian Constitution that within 15 years Hindi should take the place of English as India's official language. The Constitution also laid it down that two Commissions—one after five years and the other after ten—should report on the progress being made. The first Commission has already made its report and has recommended that the agreed plan should continue.

But two members of the Commission disagreed with the majority report and the debate has started again.

In the meantime the recommendation of 1950 still stands: that by 1965 Hindi shall become India's official language.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF

EPICS OF FUR AND FEATHER

Fifty Famous Animal Stories, edited by Leonard Gribble (Burke, 7s. 6d.)

HERE is a fine anthology of animal stories ranging from Androcles and the Lion to The Ugly Duckling; from Aesop's Fables to Lewis Carroll's Mock Turtle.

FRIEND OF THE LOWLY

Katharine Drexel, Friend of the Neglected, by Ellen Tarry (Burns and Oates, 12s. 6d.)

THE true story, and a very moving one, of a rich American woman who became a nun and devoted her long life to caring for poor Indians and Coloured folk.

BRINGING 'EM BACK ALIVE

African Safari, by Edward W. Pastore (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.)

AN enthralling tale of a boy's adventures in Tanganyika while helping his uncle to catch wild animals for zoos.

MISS GREENFINGERS

Sheila Goes Gardening, by Louise Cochrane (Chatto and Windus, 8s. 6d.)

KEEN to take up horticulture as a career, Sheila astonishes her family by getting a job as assistant to an old gardener at a country mansion. The old man falls ill, and Sheila finds herself more than busy; but she revels in the work and finds the experience valuable, later, at the Horticultural College.

TRIP BACK IN TIME

Argle's Causeway, by M. Pardoe (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 10s. 6d.)

A STRANGE and sometimes creepy adventure of some youngsters who find themselves back in Norman England. The trouble is that it is difficult for them not to show that they know of events which, from their new friends' point of view, have not yet happened. As this sounds like witchcraft—they find themselves in danger...

BOOKS FOR YOUNG NATURE LOVERS

LITTLE CREATURES

In Garden, Field and Pond, written and illustrated by Jill Norman (Hutchinson, 9s. 6d.)

THE excellent drawings in this book will really help you to remember the appearance and some of the activities of the various spiders and insects whose life-stories are told in the text. The subjects include grasshoppers, tree-wasps, bees, silkworms, mosquitoes, death-watch beetles, mayflies, and several other little creatures to be seen in Britain.

OVER A WIDE FIELD

The BBC Naturalist, edited by Desmond Hawkins (Rathbone Books, 8s. 6d.)

A COLLECTION of short notes and articles by naturalists who have gained an appreciative audience on the air. Ranging over a wide field, it is a wonderful book for dipping into, and the numerous photographs, many of them coloured, are first-class. Among the illustrated subjects not to be

GIRL ON A HORSE

Tan and Tarnac, by Gillian Baxter (Evans Brothers, 10s. 6d.)

WHETHER or not you are keen on riding, you will be absorbed by this 18-year-old author's second book. It is about a country girl's horseback adventures in London.

TAMING THE WILD WEST

The Book of American Frontier History, by Philip Wilding (Harrap, 15s.)

JIM BOWIE, Davy Crockett, Wyatt Earp, Buffalo Bill—these are just a few of the almost legendary figures of American pioneering days whose epic adventures are told here. They lived in a thrill-packed age, and their stories make a thrill-packed book.

MARBLE FOR ST. PAUL'S

Purbeck Marble, by Llewellyn Pridham (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.)

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL was being built and Sir Christopher Wren needed marble to adorn its walls. This is the exciting story of the race by land and sea to get the marble from Purbeck to London—a race between young Peter and Joan and the villainous Mr. Grue.

FUN AND FILM-MAKING

Thirteen for Luck, by Freda M. Hurt (Nelson, 6s.)

HOW to make a movie with 13 schoolchildren and a horse—and a helicopter. Pinetops is not quite the usual kind of school, but it is certainly a place where they get things done; and they solve the mystery of the 14th pupil, too.

QUEER CHARACTERS

More Strange People, by Philip Rush (Hutchinson, 9s. 6d.)

A SECOND volume of true stories about some of the queer folk not usually to be found in school history books. The King of the Gypsies, for instance, or Peter the Wild Boy. They all got themselves into the news in former days and then were forgotten. But their stories are still worth telling.

REACHING FOR THE MOON

Threshold of the Stars, by Paul Berna (Bodley Head, 12s. 6d.)

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Michael Jousse joins his father at a French research station where there are space-ships designed for landing on the Moon. Michael learns as much as possible there, for he, too, has his eyes on the Moon; but when the great day of the project dawns, young Michael finds...

This fine tale has been translated from the French by John Buchanan-Brown.

HAUNTED HOUSE

Cobblers' Knob, by Eleanor M. Jewett (Dennis Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

A TALE of some American children who are spending their summer vacation on the coast where there is a ramshackle wooden house.

Tradition says that the old house is haunted, and when young Gail pooh-poohs the idea, the rest of the holiday gang "double-date" her to go in alone. Gail accepts the challenge—and finds, not a ghost, but something almost as strange.

OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS

STORIES FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS, by April Oursler Armstrong (The World's Work, 16s.)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM, by Patrick Moore (Methuen, 10s. 6d.)

ROBOTS, by Nigel Calder—Progress of Science Series (Phoenix, 9s. 6d.)

QUEEN OF SCOTS, and MAID OF ORLEANS—both by Elisabeth Kyle (Nelson, 10s. 6d. each.)

TRAINS AND TRACTORS, by Hamilton Ellis—a picture book of locomotives, traction engines, and tractors (Allen & Unwin, 6s.)

THE YOUNG RIDER THROUGH THE AGES, by Dorothy Margaret Stuart (Harrap, 12s. 6d.)

TRICKS EVERY BOY CAN DO—with coins, draughts, matches, etc., by Joseph P. Todd (Chatto & Windus, 7s. 6d.)

GRENFELL OF LABRADOR, by G. W. Pumphrey—the story of the great medical missionary (Harrap, 9s. 6d.)

Announcing the winners of the Outspan Camera Competition

★ **FIRST PRIZE**—worth £75—was won by ANNA NORDKVELLE, aged 11, of Yarm-on-Tees, Yorkshire, for her splendid picture.

★ **SECOND PRIZE** was won by MARGARET EDWARDS, aged 9, of Hounslow West, Middx. and

★ **THIRD PRIZE** was won by ARTHUR THOMPSON, aged 10, of Jarrow, Co. Durham.

Congratulations OUTSPAN WINNERS

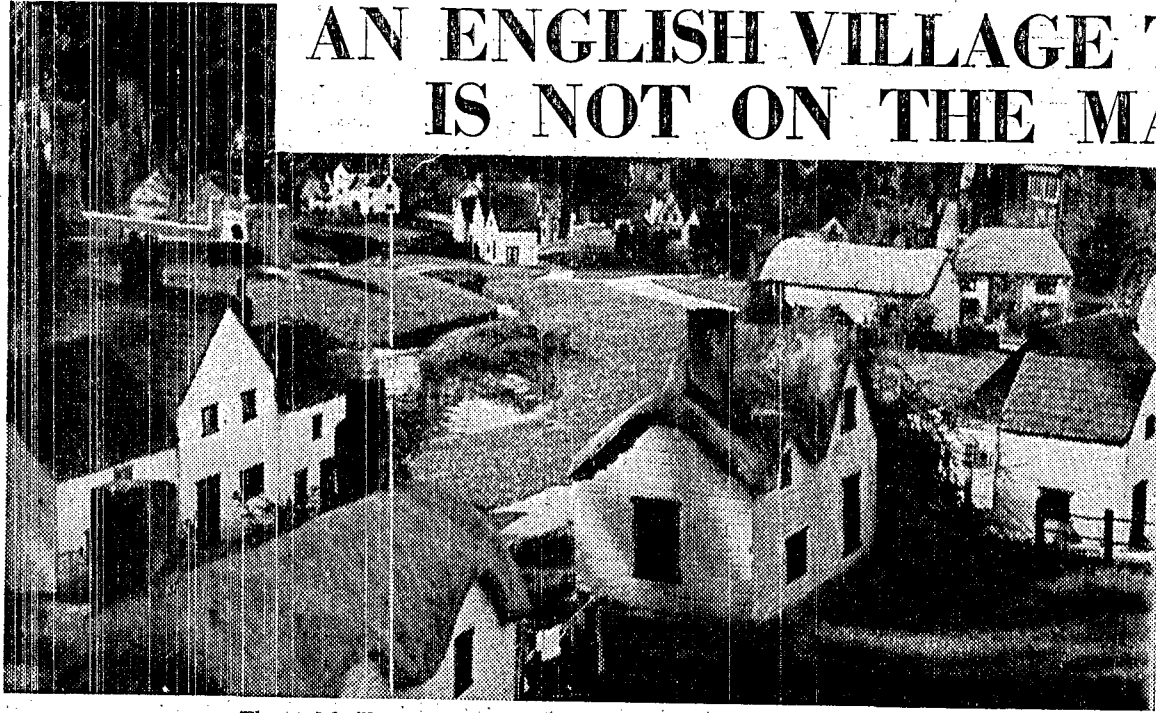
There were also consolation prizes for runners up—splendid Windsor & Newton painting sets.

*... it's **OUTSPAN TIME** *
* again—how you'll welcome those *
* sweet, juicy oranges back! *

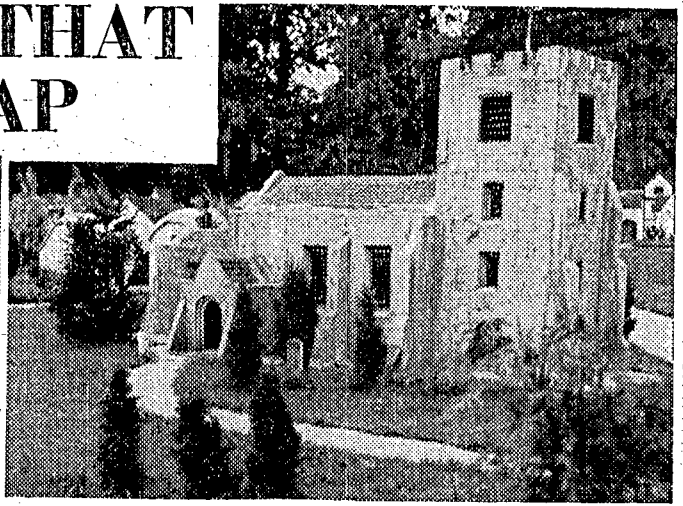
SILKWORM EGGS

For rearing on MULBERRY and LETTUCE. State which required. 100 Eggs, combined with booklet on How to Rear them. 2/6
JOHN A. ANGEL (CN),
20 Edward Ave., Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire

AN ENGLISH VILLAGE THAT IS NOT ON THE MAP



The model village of Vincent Cross in Chessington Zoo



The weather-beaten old church



There's an old mill by the stream

Look in a gazetteer of England and you will not find the village of Vincent Cross; neither will you find it on the map. But it is a village, and it is in England, and you will find it by taking a trip to Chessington Zoo, in Surrey. It is a village in miniature, here described by a CN correspondent.

THE sound of organ music coming from a grey, weather-worn church filled the air as I entered Vincent Cross. Beneath the porch stood the Vicar, awaiting the arrival of his congregation, and stepping over the lychgate I walked towards him—and knocked two elderly ladies flying. Crestfallen, I picked them up, and realised how Gulliver must have felt in the land of Lilliput.

For Vincent Cross is no ordinary village. It occupies a space of about 50 yards by 25 and its tallest building is only two feet high.

Built originally by a Southampton man, and brought from a zoo near Bournemouth which has since been closed, the village has about 45 buildings and dozens of little figures representing village folk. Because of these figures visitors are not allowed inside the wire fence all round, but I was told that small parties of children are allowed to walk round with a schoolmaster.

CLOSER VIEW

In case you cannot get there with your teacher, come with me for a closer view of Vincent Cross, named after the rather irascible gardener who devoted so much time and energy to repairing and cleaning the village when it was brought to Chessington.

Across the main road from the church is the mill, its water wheel turning merrily from the force of the river flowing through the village. The miller is out at the moment, having popped across to the nearby farm to inquire about a delivery of grain. A little farther is the High Street with general store, Post Office, butcher's, greengrocer's, and garage. Business is obviously slack, for the butcher and the greengrocer are passing the time of day outside their shops.

At the end of the High Street the



Two young visitors admire the black-and-white houses round the village green

blacksmith works at his anvil preparing a shoe for the horse tethered outside. On the other side of the road is the inn, with the oldest inhabitant chatting to the landlord.

Just past the inn is the village green with its Butter Cross and black-and-white timbered houses. (Watch your step here or you may bump into some children who are skipping.)

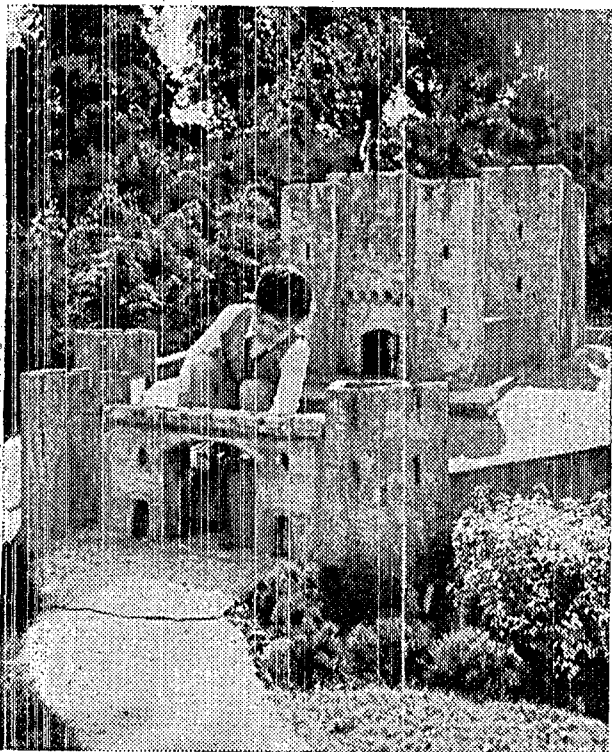
Beyond the green the road forks. The left-hand path leads to thatched cottages and outlying farms where sheep and cattle graze on lush pasture land. The right-hand fork leads across the bridge to the castle, standing sentinel over the sleepy village below.

In the woods on one side of the castle is the forester's cottage, and you can just catch a glimpse of him, axe on shoulder, disappearing into the trees.

The flower seller outside the tea-rooms has some pretty little posies. What a pity we cannot buy one as a reminder of our visit to the attractive little village of Vincent Cross!

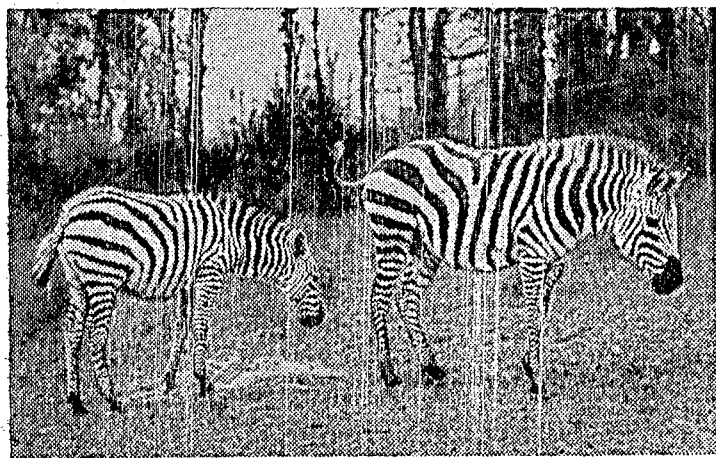


Monday is washing day at Vincent Cross



"I'm the King of the Castle"

DREAM ZOO COME TRUE



When she was a small girl Mrs. Alice Brown used to dream of having a zoo of her own. Now she will laughingly agree that Alice has her Wonderland, for in the grounds of her home, Brownlands, on the slopes of Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth, she has a fine collection of llamas, wallabies, deer, and exotic birds. Now she has been able to acquire the two zebras seen in the picture.

During the summer months

Brownlands Zoo is open to the public in aid of charities, and the collection of 39 wallabies is said to be the biggest in this country.

At one time Mrs. Brown owned a zoo at Shepperton, Middlesex, with bears, zebras, antelopes, badgers, and birds. But one day the Thames overflowed and Mrs. Brown and her helpers spent three hectic days rescuing the animals. The R.S.P.C.A. awarded her a silver medal for this work.

NEW FILMS

Epic of the Dunkirk Beaches

Last summer, when the CN film critic visited the coast at Rye in Sussex to watch Ealing Films making *Dunkirk*, he was most impressed with two things. First, the tremendous enthusiasm of all concerned and, second, the intense care that was taken to make sure that everything was authentic to the last detail. This enthusiasm and care shine through the finished picture.

DUNKIRK is a film to make our hearts glow with pride. Most CN readers are too young to remember the miracle of Dunkirk, which took place 18 years ago. It was a terrible defeat, and yet the evacuation of most of our troops by the Royal Navy and the assistance of a scratch fleet of trawlers and little motor-boats really began the long, hard road to victory.

That is the spirit which the film brilliantly captures. Even those of you who had no father or brother or uncle at Dunkirk, cannot fail to be thrilled by the gallantry that was shown on those bomb-strewn beaches.

The film shows Dunkirk through the eyes of three men, John Mills, Richard Attenborough, and Bernard Lee. John is a corporal who, with

a small detachment of men, is cut off from his unit. Doggedly, he leads them to the beaches, just doing his duty, though not quite sure what that duty is. And, during the perilous journey, he learns quite a lot of things about himself.

Richard Attenborough is a garage proprietor in a reserved job, who has hitherto been quite content to lead a "cushy" life so long as the war he has scarcely thought about failed to touch him. Bernard Lee is a newspaper reporter who is ashamed of being in civvies, who wants to know what is going on, and to make people realise that what everybody has been calling the "phoney" war is vital to all.

But when the call comes for the little boats to help the Navy rescue

our troops, both Lee and Attenborough join in the great little armada.

All three actors give splendid performances, and all the big cast behave as if they were really "living" Dunkirk. The beach sequences, with German planes attacking the helpless British, are superbly realistic in their grimness, their humour, and their pathos. The actors talk and behave as brave men do when they are frightened, and there is a most moving scene when they all kneel and pray at Sunday morning church parade.

Dunkirk has some wonderful photography, and many sequences of real war are inserted into the film very skilfully. This is an epic which everybody should see. It is a memorable tribute to a British Army which faced great odds and fought with valour in a desperate situation. And, once again, a fine film, finely made, helps to stress the fact that war is evil and wasteful and never, never, must happen again.

POPULAR POSTERS

About two years ago John Minton, a well-known London artist, painted three beautiful pictures as posters for the Post Office, appealing to the public to address letters correctly. As soon as these posters appeared thousands of people wrote asking if they could have copies and sent money to pay the cost.

John Minton, alas, died soon after completing the third poster. It was the last picture he painted. Although he was a shy man, he would have been pleased to know how men and women in all parts of the United Kingdom responded to his paintings of ancient castles and historic beauty spots.

The Post Office is now going to ask other eminent artists to paint similar pictures, beneath each will be given the correct postal address of that locality.

Light on a sea mystery

Discovery by a French diving party of an old rusted anchor near Vanikoro Island, north of the New Hebrides, has revived interest in one of the unsolved mysteries of the sea. This was the disappearance of the famous 18th-century French navigator Jean François La Pérouse and his two ships.

La Pérouse, who was on an official voyage of discovery for the French Government, reached Botany Bay, near Sydney, in January 1788. This was a few days after Captain Arthur Phillip and 1500 people from England arrived at the same spot to set up the colony of New South Wales.

The English helped La Pérouse with repairs for the long voyage home, on which he sailed on March 10, 1788. But his ships were never seen again.

It was not until 38 years later, in 1826, that the first light fell on the mystery. Captain Peter Dillon, an English sailor, noticed a member of his crew with an old silver sword-hilt. Dillon discovered that, along with other relics, it had come from Vanikoro in the New Hebrides. From his investigations Dillon was sure that La Pérouse's ships had been driven ashore during a storm and wrecked, and that a few survivors had tried to escape in a boat but had been drowned.

Additional discoveries were made in 1828, when a memorial to the lost ships' crews was set up on Vanikoro. The relics found there are to be seen in the Louvre, at Paris. And now there are more relics from that historic voyage by one of the world's most famous navigators.



John Mills and Bernard Lee in a scene from *Dunkirk*

MICAH CLARKE—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story of the Monmouth Rising (6)



The smugglers unbound Micah and, being on Monmouth's side, offered to help him reach Badminton. He pleaded with them to spare the exciseman, but they refused, so he quietly dropped his knife near the bound captive. First the smugglers got Micah's horse on board their lugger, then rowed him to it. Next day they landed him near Bristol.



A farmer told Micah that the Duke of Beaufort was organising the defence of Bristol against the rebels, and the young man wondered gloomily how the Duke would receive Monmouth's letter calling for his support. At Badminton, Micah was shown into the presence of his Grace, who was evidently busy preparing to resist Monmouth's rebel army.



After reading Monmouth's letter Beaufort flew into a rage. "How doth he presume to send such a missive to one of my quality?" he cried. "And you!" he went on to Micah, "who are you that dare to bring such messages to Badminton? You had surely taken leave of your senses ere you set out upon such an errand. Seize the man and secure his hands!"



The Duke then questioned Micah about the strength of Monmouth's forces, but he politely declined to answer. "Ha!" roared Beaufort, "our pretty gentleman must needs stand upon the niceties of honour after taking up arms against his king. How shall we make this traitor find his tongue?" One of the officers with him suggested the thumbscrew.

How will Micah fare in the hands of this powerful nobleman? See next week's instalment

SECRET OF THE GORGE

By Malcolm Saville

The Lone Piners and Nicholas Whiteflower are camping near Bringewood Manor, where they have gone to search for a missing diamond necklace stolen from the Whiteflower family forty years earlier by a woman named Harriet Brown. Two strange men, also searching for the diamonds, try to drive the Lone Piners away.

The twins and Nicholas have gone to explore the Manor, and by accident are locked in a tower. Peter and Jenny set out to search a ruined cottage. David and Tom are on their way down the gorge to look for caves.

15. Two boys in a punt

DAVID and Tom were not particularly cheerful as they left the camp and walked along the track by the river. Although they had agreed with the plan of splitting their forces, now that they were on their own they did not feel very happy about the idea.

"Whatever we may feel, Tom, I think it's the only way of covering as much ground as we can as quickly as possible," David said. "We can move much faster without the girls, and if we are going to search the gorge for caves, there'll be a lot of climbing to do. Time isn't on our hands if we want to find the diamonds before those two men."

This was sensible enough, but Tom was still disgruntled.

"All the same, I don't like the idea of Peter and Jen exploring that ruined cottage," he grumbled. "I think it's dangerous for girls on their own to be messing about there."

They walked on down the track, and tried to imagine how Harriet Brown would have tried to hide

the diamonds in the dark on a stormy night. If she used a cave for a hiding place for the stolen necklace, which side of the river would she have chosen? It was all very puzzling.

They found two caves within a few minutes. The first was on ground level and hidden behind a screen of rank-smelling elders. Tom, pushing through nettles and brambles, was the first to see its dark entrance in the limestone cliff. It was a nasty little cave about six feet deep and four feet high.

"If Harriet hid anything here she must have been crazier than I'm sure she was," Tom said grimly. "I reckon we're wasting our time on this side of the river. We should be over there on the Manor side."

David crawled out of the cave backwards.

"I know. I know, but let's keep this side for a bit longer."

The second cave

He saw the second cave a few minutes later when they were forcing their way through the undergrowth between the path and the face of the cliff. It was about fifteen feet above the ground, with a ledge outside the entrance. A tree, growing almost against the cliff, looked easy enough to climb, so David said: "You go up, Tom. You ought to be able to see right into the cave. If you can't, give me a shout and I'll come up and see if one of us can climb in . . . O.K.?"

Tom nodded and jumped for the lowest branch of the tree, and soon he was on a level with the cave. There was nothing in it!

"Nothing doing, David," he

called out. "This tree wouldn't have been as high as this forty years ago, so Harriet wouldn't have had a chance of getting here."

As he was moving round the trunk to get down he realised that he had an unexpected view of the opposite bank of the river. He saw above the screen of bushes, almost touching the surface of the water, a little backwater only a few feet wide and parallel with the main stream.

On it was floating an old punt. He told David of his discovery before he was down the tree.

"Let's get round there as quickly as we can. We can explore the opposite bank better from that punt . . . Come on!"

David agreed, and they raced across the bridge.

The watching strangers

The undergrowth on this side of the river was much thicker; there was no track by the bank, and neither were the cliffs as sheer. Just as they reached the punt they heard voices. Tom jumped for the lowest branch of the nearest tree and pulled himself up. David, trying to see who was on the opposite bank, pushed aside the branches of the bushes, missed his footing, and slipped into the water.

He brought down part of the bush, too, and when he looked across the river he saw two strangers staring at him—a tall youth with a garish shirt and tight black trousers, and a pretty girl in red jeans. The lout grinned when he saw David floundering in the water, said something to his companion, and then they both hurried along the path towards the bridge.

"Never seen them before," Tom said. "Surely they can't be anything to do with the fat man and his nasty old friend? We may as well warn the girls that strangers are about." Holding the trunk of the tree with one arm, he put two fingers in his mouth and whistled the peewit's haunting call. The Lone Piners' warning echoed down the gorge.

In a punt

"If you've finished wallowing down there, let's have a look at the punt," he went on. "There are a couple of paddles in the bottom, and we can explore this side of the river better from the water, I'm sure."

David scrambled up the bank, and together they tried to haul the punt out of the river. It was too heavy to shift.

"Let's risk it," Tom said. "I can't see a hole in the bottom, and with two paddles we ought to be able to manage the thing. Keep it close in to this bank. There might be an entrance to another stream hidden by bushes, or even a cave at water level."

They got carefully into the punt and pushed off. The two paddles

were unwieldy and slippery to hold and did not help them much in their amateurish efforts to control the heavy punt. It took them nearly half an hour to get upstream only a few hundred yards. By that time they were both hot and exhausted. And then Tom dropped his paddle in the water. He leaned over and tried to grab it, but it was swept out of his reach downstream.

"Sorry, David. That was a fool's trick. Try to keep her straight—or, better still, get her into the bank now. Look out! Keep her straight!"

But David was in trouble. Neither of them had ever been in control of the wayward, wallowing punt, and now, by himself, David had no chance of managing it in the current, which was much stronger than they had expected. They were swept backward downstream again.

"Nothing I can do now," David shouted, as the punt was swinging about in the strong current. "Shall we swim for it? We may hit the bridge if we can't get her straight."

For the first time Tom looked scared. The sun was still shining in a blue summer sky. A kingfisher flashed by, and there was a smell of meadow sweet and cold



David thrust his paddle into the water in an attempt to straighten the punt

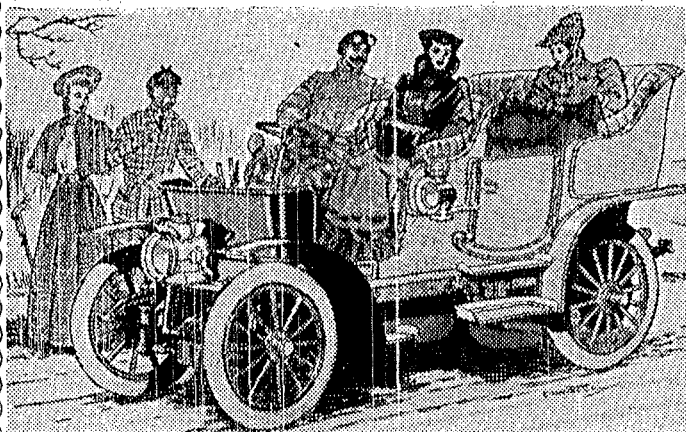
water, and it seemed absurd that they should be in danger just because they couldn't control an old punt. He looked ahead and saw the narrow arch of the bow bridge with the water surging strongly through it. Then the punt swung round almost broadside.

"If we bash into the arch, jump!" Tom shouted. The bridge rushed towards them. Tom crouched in the bows as the punt swung broadside again, and then, caught by the full force of the water, it rushed towards the bridge. David thrust his paddle into the water in an attempt to straighten the punt, but failed.

Continued on page 10

OLD-TIME CARS

(A series of twenty-four)



No. 15. THE 1904 LEA-FRANCIS

THE year 1904 was an important one in the history of the motor industry, twelve makers of cars introducing new models. In that year, too, the firm of Lea-Francis produced its first car.

Previously renowned as the makers of beautifully-finished

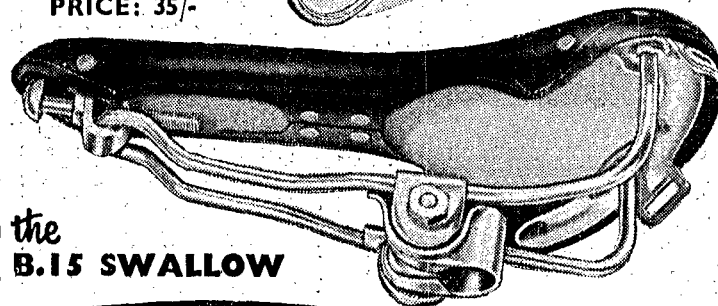
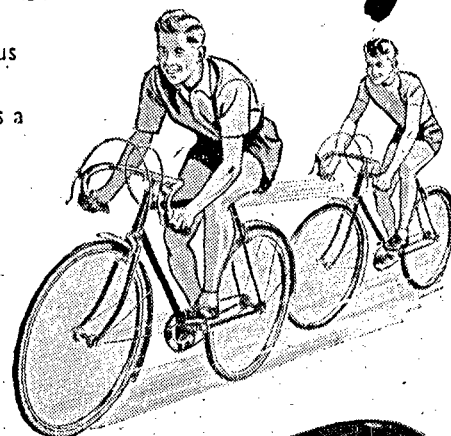
cycles, the firm lived up to its reputation with this car, a solid 12-hp. machine in which considerable use of aluminium was made for lightness. The four-cylinder horizontal engine was placed under the front floorboards, and it had three speeds and chain drive.

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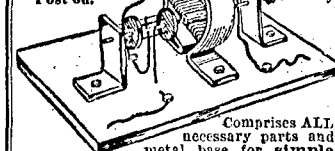
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LOOKING AT THE SKY

CORVUS THE CROW SHOWS THE WAY TO SOUTHERN CROSS

THE Southern Cross is a famous constellation which we in Britain never see. Just now, however, it is possible to picture the Southern Cross as it appears in the sky and also where it is at the present time.

This may be done by means of the distinctive constellation of Corvus, the celestial Crow, which will be readily recognised to the south of Virgo, the Virgin, described in the CN of April 19. Corvus will be due south between 8 and 9 o'clock, and the Southern Cross will then be due south of Corvus and about as far below the horizon as Corvus is above it.

Were we observing from about the latitude of the West Indies or Southern India, we would see the Southern Cross appearing below Corvus and occupying about the same extent of sky. Their exact relative proportions may be seen by comparing the accompanying star-maps, where it will be seen

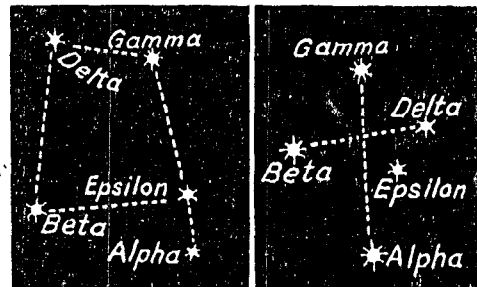
that the stars Beta and Delta of Corvus appear to be only very little farther apart than the stars Alpha and Gamma of the Southern Cross.

But Alpha, Beta, and Gamma of the Southern Cross are all bright first-magnitude stars, with Delta and Epsilon of third magnitude, so it is a much brighter constellation than Corvus, in which Alpha is of only fourth magnitude. Epsilon, the fifth star of the Southern Cross, is much fainter than the others and rather spoils the effect of a cross.

because of its great antiquity, and also because of its association with the Biblical narrative of Noah and the Flood.

Originally, Corvus represented the "raven" which was sent out from the Ark. In Roman times, however, the "raven" appears to have been regarded as "Corvus," the Crow; but even then, according to one of the ancient Roman "star-maps" or planispheres, the bird is represented as being out at sea and perched upon the back of a sea-serpent, Hydra. Hence the link with the story recorded in Genesis some thousands of years before.

The stars themselves are of much interest, Alpha chiefly because it is so singularly faint for a leading star. It is but 62 light-years distant. Delta-in-Corvus is an immense sun which radiates about



Where the Nile begins

A memorial is being erected at Jinja, Uganda, to commemorate John Hanning Speke's discovery of the source of the River Nile in 1862. It is here that the great river begins its long course to the Mediterranean from Lake Victoria.

The memorial will replace a previous one to Speke which now lies under water, for the level at this point was raised many feet during the building of the Owen Falls hydro-electric dam, opened by the Queen a few years ago.

This dam, which has turned Lake Victoria into a vast reservoir, supplies much of the power for Uganda's industrial development.

In the flag of New Zealand, and also on the country's postage stamps, the star Epsilon is omitted. Australia's rendering of the Southern Cross, on the other hand, includes all five stars.

As a constellation the Southern Cross was not devised until between three and four centuries ago, its stars having been previously included with those of Centaurus since very ancient and pre-Christian times. Its stars are themselves of great interest, but these must be reserved for the next article.

Corvus is particularly interesting

45 times more light than our Sun, but it is about 6,265,000 times more distant. It has a planetary companion which probably revolves round the great central sun; it radiates only about half the light of our Sun.

Gamma-in-Corvus, at a distance of 136 light-years, radiates about 120 times more light than our Sun; and Beta-in-Corvus about 90 times more; and from a distance of 121 light-years. Epsilon-in-Corvus, at 142 light-years' distance, radiates about 85 times more light.

G. F. M.

SECRET OF THE GORGE

Continued from page 9

They spun into the cool shadow of the bridge, and with a rasping crunch the bows ground in the shallows.

Before Tom could do anything practical, however, the current took the stern and swung the punt round again. David tried to thrust them clear of the arch with his paddle, but the latter snapped in his hand. The stern hit the stonework with a splintering crash, water poured over the side, and then they were in the open again, where the river widened and ran pleasantly in its shallow bed until it roared into the second gorge by the old mill.

David looked ruefully at the stump of the paddle which he was holding, and then laughed as the water-logged punt hit a smooth rock and then grounded on a spit of shingle in midstream. Tom fell backwards into the punt as David threw the stump of the paddle into the stream and then helped him up.

"Just as well the girls didn't see us do that act," he said. "We haven't been very clever, Thomas. We must ask Nicholas if he knows who the punt belongs to, but I'm

afraid it may have done its last job. Let's go down to the camp and see that all's well. We haven't done much exploring, I'm afraid."

Tom stepped out on to the little island.

"Sorry about all this, David. My fault really. We seem to work better on land, don't we?"

Together they waded through the shallows in the middle of the river, jumping from rock to rock.

"Wonder where the girls are?" Tom was saying just as they rounded the bend in the river that hid their camp, and at that moment they heard a shout that sent them floundering through the water to the bank.

David was first ashore. To his fury and astonishment, he saw the couple who had jeered at them in the gorge trying to wreck the camp. The lout was dragging at the guide lines of a tent, while the girl was emptying one of their knapsacks of stores into the bushes.

For a moment David was speechless, then with a shout of rage he dashed forward with Tom at his heels.

To be continued

In the Children's Royal Academy



My Friend Simone, by ten-year-old Fiona Clark of Brighton—one of the 200 paintings in this year's Children's Royal Academy. Organised by the Royal Drawing Society, the exhibition can be seen at the Guildhall Art Gallery in London until May 10. Admission is free.

PUZZLE PARADE

RIDDLE-ME-REE

MY first is in mouse, but not in cat,
My second's in coat, but not in hat.
My third is in house, and also in home,
My fourth is in goblin, and also in gnome.
My fifth is in low, but not in high,
My sixth is in pudding, and also in pie.
My seventh's in give, but not in take,
My eighth is in shiver, and also in shake.
My ninth is in tarry, and also in stay—
My whole makes the night seem as bright as the day!

TWO WORDS IN ONE

I'm a five-letter word
Meaning "join," at the start.
Transpose just two letters,
And I mean "take apart."

SPORTS PUZZLE

The letters of the words printed in italics can be re-arranged to spell a term in hockey.

"JUST ten minutes to go by my watch," said Jill during a lull in the scoring. "Bad tactics lost the Red House any chance they possessed," commented Pam. "Hit-and-rush methods seldom pay against a deep covering defence."

FIND THE COUNTRIES

By finding the missing vowels, indicated by a dash, and the missing consonants (by a cross), you will be able to form the names of five European countries.

R—XX— X—RX—XY
X—NX—RX XR—XC—
—XTR—

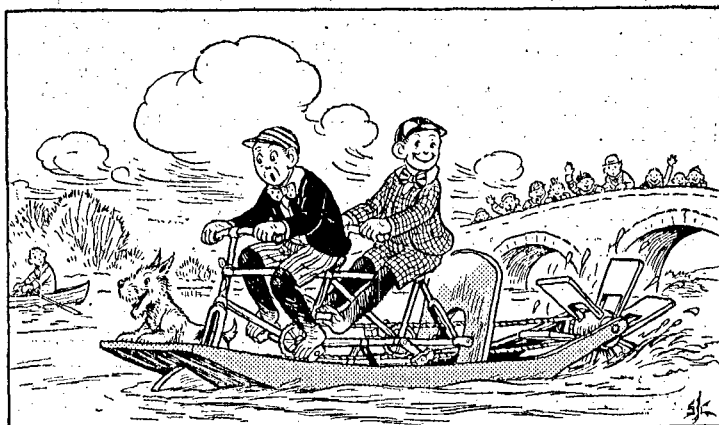
HOW MANY?

IN the family there were six brothers, and each had a sister. How many children were there?

CATCH QUESTION

IF a farmer raises forty acres of corn in dry weather, what will he raise in wet weather?

JACKO HAS A LAZY CREW



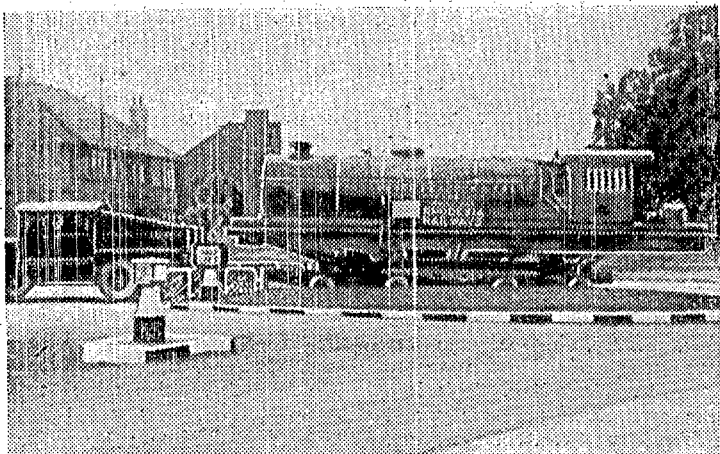
From an old punt, a few boxes, and a wheel-less tandem, Jacko and Chimp had made a fine paddle-boat. They pedalled away and had several trips up and down the river, Bouncer doing his bit as look-out man in the bows. After a time Jacko began to puff. "Getting like hard work, now," he complained to Chimp. "Tide's on the turn, I suppose." Chimp murmured sympathetically, carefully avoiding pointing out that there was no tide on that river. "Never mind, keep going," he urged. Suddenly Jacko looked down—and saw that Chimp's feet were no longer on the pedals and that he himself was doing all the work. Then, in less time than it takes to say "all hands on deck," it was Chimp who needed sympathy.

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

(Answers are given in column 3)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. She has an <i>insatiable</i> appetite.
A—Bad manners.
B—Never satisfied.
C—Impossible to explain. | 4. I <i>conceded</i> the argument.
A—Provoked it.
B—Won.
C—Gave in. |
| 2. My uncle is an <i>oculist</i> .
A—Dabbles in magic.
B—Shuts himself away.
C—Treats eye trouble. | 5. These people are <i>immigrants</i> .
A—Coming into the country.
B—Leaving for abroad.
C—Constantly on the move. |
| 3. He is an <i>erudite</i> man.
A—Uncouth.
B—Learned.
C—Misguided. | 6. She spoke in <i>dulcet</i> tones.
A—Expressionless.
B—Sweet.
C—Gloomy. |



Roundabout riddle—See page 6

The little roadway through the roundabout has been made especially for the passage of heavy, outsized loads on their way to the docks at Birkenhead. Only the police are allowed to open the gates.

WORD SQUARE

The answers to the clues will form a word square.

MY dog's share of the joint.

Not closed.

Require.

Most things have two of these.

A FLOWER AM I

MY first is in lamb but not in sheep,

My second's in crawl but not in creep.

My third's in crumpet but not in toast;

My fourth is in shore but not in coast.

My fifth is in bread and also in bake,

My sixth is in real and also in fake.

My seventh's in jolly but not in sad,

My eighth is in girl and also in lad.

You'll find me in woodlands towards the late spring.

To thousands of people great joy I will bring.

JUST A FEW WORDS

- B. Insatiable means unable to be satisfied. (From Latin *in*—not, and *satis*—enough.)
- C. An oculist is one skilled in diseases of the eye. (From Latin *oculus*—the eye.)
- B. Erudite means learned; rich in knowledge. (From Latin *eruditus*—freed from rudeness, *e*—from, and *rudis*—rough, uncultured.)
- C. To concede is to yield or give up. (From Latin *concedere*—to withdraw or yield.)
- A. An immigrant is one who moves into a country with intention of settling in it. (From Latin *immigrare*—to remove into.)
- B. Dulcet means sweet; melodious. (From Latin *dulcis*—sweet.)

WILLIE WOODMOUSE FOUND OUT WHY

WHENEVER Willie Woodmouse's parents told him not to do anything he always said: "Why?" Unfortunately he rarely believed their answers, although he always found out they were right.

But it seemed that his parents were wrong about one thing.

They had told him never to go food hunting in the garden next to their field, or something bad would happen.

But since last autumn, when he had been living alone, he had been to the garden and nibbled carrots, gnawed tulip bulbs, and even eaten a whole row of broad beans which the gardener had sown in November, hoping for an early spring crop.

And nothing had happened to Willie.

So, this spring, when planting time for peas came, Willie soon discovered the first row of earlies in the garden, and dug them up and ate them.

Still nothing happened to him.

He missed the second sowing, till he saw the first green leaves

above ground. So he chewed some of them—and decided to come back for more next time he wanted to eat.

But the next night he saw slug bait along the pea row, and many sick slugs. How he laughed! "Fancy thinking it was the slugs, and punishing them," he cried. "Nothing will ever happen to me!"

So he nosed around till he smelled out another newly-sown row of peas. Scratch and tunnel he went. Then: "Ow! Ow! My poor nose! My poor paws!" he squeaked, and scampered off home as well as he could.

For his nose and paws were all pricked by the little spiky gorse twigs the gardener had buried in his pea trench to punish Master Willie!

"So mother and father were right again," he said as he licked his sore places. "I think I shall get married myself, and have a family of my own. Then I can tell them 'Why'."

JANE THORNICROFT

LUCKY DIP

GOING TO HIS HEAD

GEORGE: "I'm tired of always being called a goat."

"Then why don't you stop butting in when I'm speaking?"

SPOT THE . . .

HORSE CHESTNUT BUDS as they glisten in the sunlight. As the brown, sticky scales which form the bud's outer covering unfold and drop to the ground, the leaflets unfurl. Gradually, they form the lovely, fan-shaped sprays which make the perfect setting for the "candles" of the beautiful blossoms which follow. The young leaflets are very tender and soft at first, and are covered with fine hair.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE term *whipping boy* is often applied to someone who has to take the blame for others. At one time a whipping boy was educated with a prince, but as the prince could not be punished for any lack of discipline or for inattention, the boy took the whipping instead.

MOON BOUND

THERE was an old man of Rangoon
Who wanted to go to the Moon;
He said: "I'll arrive
At a quarter-to-five
In the space-ship leaving at noon."

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Riddle-me-ree. Moonlight.
Two words in one. Unite, untie.
Sports puzzle. Penalty bully.
Find the countries. Russia; Germany; Denmark; France; Austria.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER How many? Seven.

SHOO MEET
O BROOM O
FREE TILL
TOY HOTEL
B SIR V
PESTS VEJ
ESPY JALT
W ALTER E
JANE ANEW

Word square.
BONE
OPEN
NEED
ENDS

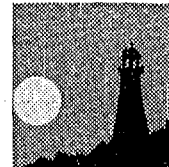
A flower am I.
Bluebell.

Catch question.
His umbrella.

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning

Venus and Mars are in the south-east, and Saturn is in the south. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at half-past eight on the evening of Saturday, May 3.



SUPPOSITION

OPTIMIST: "Happiness is the pursuit of something, not the catching of it."

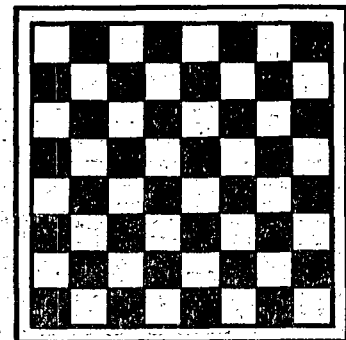
Pessimist: "Have you ever chased the last bus on a rainy night?"

TONGUE-TWISTER

FIVE fine fifes fluently fluted.

MAKE YOUR OWN DRAUGHTS BOARD

HERE is an easily-made draughts or chess board. All you need is a strong piece of card, eleven inches square. With pencil and ruler mark out a ten-inch square



in the centre of the card. Divide and mark this into 14-inch squares, and paint the squares with poster colour.

Paint the outside board in a contrasting colour and allow to dry. Both sides can be given a smooth finish by coating with clear varnish. Finally, bind the edges with either passe-partout or cloth binding and the board is then ready to use.

CUP FINAL DAY AT WEMBLEY

The flying referee

For the third time since the war, Saturday's F.A. Cup Final at Wembley will be an all-Lancashire meeting; Bolton Wanderers will play Manchester United.

Bolton were concerned in the last all-Lancashire match at Wembley in 1953, when they were narrowly beaten by Blackpool. This was Bolton's first defeat in four visits to Wembley. Their first win was in the historic 1923 match, when a crowd of 150,000 stormed the Empire Stadium. They were winners again in 1926 and 1929.

Manchester United have been Cup winners at Wembley only once, in 1948. They appeared in

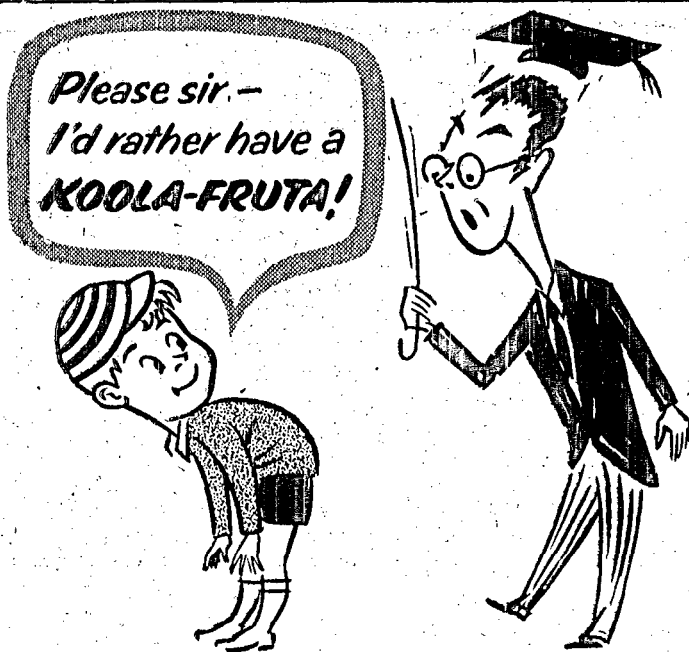
the Final last year, but lost to Aston Villa, after having their goalkeeper badly injured during the first half. In view of the terrible air tragedy that robbed the club of some of its finest international players, their return to Wembley is indeed a magnificent performance.

If the tradition of Wembley is maintained, United should win the Cup this year. On four previous occasions the Cup has been won by the team losing the previous season's Final. Incidentally, this is the fourth year running that Manchester has been represented at Wembley, for Manchester City lost in 1955, and won in the following year.

One member of the new Manchester United team may set up a record on Saturday. Ernie Taylor, international inside-right, helped Newcastle United to win the Cup in 1951; was a member of the Blackpool team that took the trophy in 1953; and on Saturday, he might become the first man to have three winners' medals with different clubs. Stan Crowther, the United half-back, can also create a record by winning Cup medals in successive seasons with different clubs. Last year he helped Aston Villa to victory.

Unenviable record

YOUNG goalkeeper Neville Pybus has good reason to remember the name of Crook Town, one of the 1958 F.A. Amateur Cup semi-finalists. They scored ten goals against him at the beginning of the season when he was playing for Whitby Town. He has since joined another Northern League side, South Bank, which has twice been defeated 12-0 by Crook Town. For a goalkeeper to concede 34 goals in one season to the same club must be a record.



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Koola Fruta

— THAT'S THE LOLLY!

Buy them where you buy your
LYONS MAID ICE CREAM

3d

To take charge of the Cup Final is the ambition of all referees. The man chosen for Saturday's match is Mr. John Sherlock, of Sheffield.

Although he was born in Sheffield, and had a trial with Sheffield Wednesday as a player some years ago, Mr. Sherlock resides mainly in the Isle of Man, where he is managing director of several hotels. Because of this, he usually travels by air each weekend to League matches, hence his nickname of "the flying referee." Saturday's Cup Final will not be his first big match at Wembley. He refereed the Amateur Cup Final in 1952.

Champion in the making

A GREAT future is anticipated for 18-year-old sculler Ron Willis of the Sons of the Thames Club at Hammersmith. He is being coached by Umberto Quagliotti, himself a famous sculler in his



day. "Quag," as he is known in rowing circles, gave up coaching in 1950, but was so impressed with Ron's promise that he not only came out of retirement but also provided a new boat.

Kicking a double century

RUGBY LEAGUE'S newest record holder is Bernard Ganley, the Oldham full-back, who recently scored his 205th goal of the season. This beat the record established by Jim Sullivan of Wigan in 1933-34.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who holds the women's world high-jump record?
2. Who is the youngest cricketer ever to play in a Test match?
3. How is a table tennis game won if the score reaches 20-20?
4. Who is said to have picked up a football and run with it, thus founding the game of Rugby?
5. Which team holds the County Cricket Championship?
6. How many players has a Rugby League side?

1. Cheng Feng Yung, of China—5 feet 9½ inches. 2. Nasimul Ghani of Pakistan, who was 16 years 248 days when he played against the West Indies earlier this year. 3. By the first player scoring two consecutive points. 4. William Ellis, 5. Surrey. 6. Thirteen.

SPORTING GALLERY

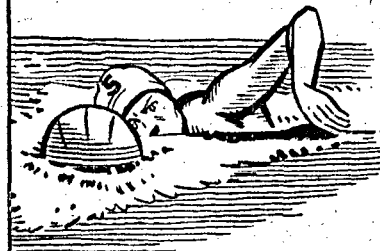
EDDIE HOPKINSON

Two years ago the name of Eddie Hopkinson was almost unknown away from Bolton. Now he is England's goalkeeper.

Durham-born, Eddie thinks that the water-polo he used to play helped to give him that sure grip of a ball which is one of his many attributes. But soccer has always been his first love, and he has never wanted to be anything but a goalkeeper.

He joined Bolton Wanderers in 1952 at 16, and started in their fourth team. He still had three good goalkeepers in front of him when he returned from National Service in 1956, but injuries to two and cricket commitments in the third case gave Eddie unexpected promotion.

He has been first choice ever since. Not only has he kept his place with Bolton; he has also won his place—and kept it—in the England team.



BARBARIANS OFF TO SOUTH AFRICA

TWENTY-FIVE of Britain's top Rugby players fly to South Africa next week for a three-week tour organised by the Barbarians, the "touring" club which has made its name famous throughout the Rugby world. They will play four matches in the Transvaal, one of them being against a South African XV. After a 1000-mile flight to the Cape they will play Western Province; and on their way home they have arranged to play one game in Kenya.

Three members of the team—Dicky Jeeps (England), Cliff Morgan (Wales), and Tony O'Reilly (Ireland) will be returning to the scene of their former triumphs with the last tour of South Africa by the British Lions team.

At the end of the tour dynamic little Cliff Morgan intends to retire from first-class Rugby. For eight years now, he has been one of the outstanding fly-halves in the game. No Welsh team has been complete without him during that period.

Ken Jones, of Newport, is another great Welsh international to announce his retirement. Winner of 44 Welsh international caps, Ken Jones also gained fame as a sprinter. He ran for Britain in the 1948 Olympics, captained Britain in the European Championships that year, and also represented Wales in the 1954 Empire Games. He has been appointed to manage the Welsh team in the forthcoming Games at Cardiff.

New Zealanders' first game

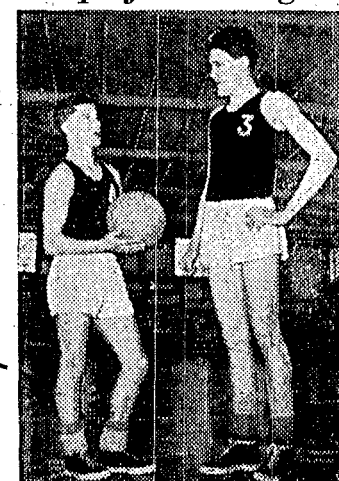
THE first-class cricket programme gets under way this week. The visiting New Zealanders open their tour in the time-honoured way at Worcester on Wednesday, moving on to Leicester for their next game on Saturday. They will hope to record a resounding victory against Worcestershire, as they did on their last tour in 1949.

Margot gets a Black Belt

MARGOT SATHAYE, 16-year-old member of the Croydon Judo Club, Surrey, has become the youngest girl in Europe to be awarded a Black Belt. This is a Judo symbol of proficiency and enables Margot to teach the sport.

Only four other women in England have been awarded a Black Belt.

Top of the League



The Army Apprentices School at Arborfield, Berkshire, are this season's winners of the Army Boys' Basketball Championship—in their first year in the competition. The captain is Peter Tidey (17), who is 6 feet 6 inches.